

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING GEORGE CALLAS

HON. PAUL D. RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, one of the most significant policy achievements in the last three decades would not have been possible without George Callas. George and I have been kindred spirits in our work to enact historic tax reform. He laid the groundwork for our eventual success with his early work on draft reform legislation while at the Ways and Means Committee, and he drove us over the finish line as my senior tax counsel in the Speaker's Office. I am sad to see him leave but eternally grateful for his lasting contributions to this country. George is a problem solver, relentless, and quite simply the best tax policy mind that I've ever encountered. Some of the most enjoyable moments of my speakership have been battling around tax reform ideas with George. As he departs Congress after nearly 15 years, I wish him and his family all the best and congratulate him on a job well done.

CONGRATULATING THE 4X800M RELAY TEAM OF THE WASH- INGTON BLUE JAYS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 4x800m Relay Team of the Washington Blue Jays for their first-place finish at the 2018 Missouri Class 4 State Track and Field Championship. This 4x800m relay team includes Mikayla Reed, Mia Reed, Morgan Holdmeyer, and Claire Ayers.

The 4x800m Relay Team and their coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the 4x800m Relay Team for a job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, on July 11, on final passage of H.R. 200, The Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act, I inadvertently cast my vote contrary to my own intentions. I intended to vote NO on that bill. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call No. 321.

ROBERT SPARKS COAST GUARD PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic actions of Robert Sparks.

In May, 1957, Mr. Sparks was fishing with his father off of Nahant, MA when they heard distressed cries for help in the distance. Mr. Sparks and his father then sailed to the source of the screams to find Mr. Rudolph Day, who was in the water struggling to remain afloat after his boat had capsized. Mr. Sparks then pulled Mr. Day, who was barely conscious at the time, from the water, performed first aid upon him, and took him safely to shore.

For his swift and critical response to aid Mr. Day, Mr. Sparks received the Coast Guard's Meritorious Public Safety Medal, as his actions well-reflected the ideals and traditions of the USCG. It is this commitment of our servicemen and women to protecting their fellow Americans that allows our country to remain free, prosperous, and secure. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to celebrate the actions of Robert Sparks.

CONGRATULATING BRYAN CANDRL OF THE OWENSVILLE DUTCHMEN

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bryan Candrl of the Owensville Dutchmen for his first-place finish in the Pole Vault Field Event at the 2018 Missouri Class 3 State Track and Field Championship.

Bryan and his coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Bryan Candrl for a job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN JENKINS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for Roll Call votes No. 314 and 315 on the evening of July 10, 2018. I would have voted in favor of H.R. 5793, sponsored by Rep. SEAN DUFFY. I would have voted in favor of H.R. 5749, sponsored by Rep. RANDY HULTGREN.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 314 and YEA on Roll Call No. 315.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL JOHN WAGNER

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to acknowledge the exceptional career of Colonel John Wagner, United States Air Force. Colonel Wagner is retiring after a dedicated career of military service to our nation. Colonel Wagner exemplifies the qualities of a great leader with a culminating assignment as the United States Air Force Chair and Military Professor at the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy. His truly outstanding leadership has contributed greatly to our nation, and it is no doubt that Colonel Wagner's retirement is well earned.

Colonel Wagner's career began at the United States Air Force Academy where he graduated with a degree in Astronautical Engineering in 1991. Subsequently he has had a distinguished career dedicated to our nation's space operations. He is also a graduate of the United States Air Force Institute of Technology, the School of Advanced Air & Space Studies, the Air Command and Staff College, the Air War College and the National War College.

I had the good fortune to meet Colonel Wagner during his tenure as dual commander of the 460th Space Wing and Buckley Air Force Base. Buckley Air Force Base is located in Aurora, Colorado, which I have the honor of representing here in the United States House of Representatives. Colonel Wagner performed exceptionally as the base and wing commander. Some of his key accomplishments include completing the new Block 10 Ground Control System for the Space-Based Infrared System and Defense Support System. Colonel Wagner also worked tirelessly to enhance the health and welfare of those serving on the base by obtaining the funding and approval to develop adequate on base primary medical care facilities. In particular, Colonel Wagner's command time is notable for his broad vision and implementation of the "Team Buckley" concept where the needs of all of the many tenants on the base received his full attention. Most emblematic of this was his support for the Colorado Air National Guard's Compatible Use Buffer Project which plays a key role in protecting the base's flying mission from the threat of encroachment.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel Wagner has led by example throughout his career as a space operator, as a commander and as an instructor. His career as a military leader can serve as an inspiration to all Americans. I thank him for his contribution to the security of our nation and I wish him all the best as he retires from the United States Air Force.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

CONGRATULATING JASMINE
EVERS OF THE EUGENE EAGLES

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jasmine Evers of the Eugene Eagles for her first-place finish in the Discus Event at the 2018 Missouri Class 2 State Track and Field Championship.

Jasmine and her coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Jasmine Evers for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF RE-
TIRED MISSISSIPPI FIRST JUDI-
CIAL DISTRICT CHANCERY
JUDGE CHARLES D. THOMAS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of one of Mississippi's most devoted citizens and public servants, retired Chancery Judge Charles D. Thomas. Judge Thomas passed away on Thursday, April 19, 2018. Judge Thomas was born on August 28, 1936, in Collins, Mississippi. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. William Otis Thomas, Sr.

Upon graduation from high school, Judge Thomas attended school at Marion Institute in Alabama. He earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Mississippi School of Law. Following graduation, Judge Thomas began a distinguished career practicing law at the Doty and Thomas Law Firm in Pontotoc, Mississippi. Judge Thomas was well-known for his skills as an attorney which served him well when he entered into public service as the First Judicial District of Mississippi Chancery Court Judge in 1993. Governor Kirk Fordice appointed Judge Thomas to fill the remainder of the term that was vacated by First Judicial District Chancery Judge Jim Roberts.

Bill Benson, Lee County Chancery Court administrator, said that Judge Thomas was a good judge who was known for being fair. "Judge Thomas was a fair judge with rulings that were on point," Benson said. "He was well in command of his courtroom. You had no doubt who was in charge."

Judge Thomas was also known to be a loyal friend. If you were his friend, he would go to any lengths to help you. Danny Weatherly, a devoted friend of Judge Thomas in Pontotoc, said he was a person who enjoyed conversations with people from all walks of life. "He was an intelligent, successful man and down to earth," Weatherly said. "He loved to fellowship with everyone—especially those who loved Ole Miss Athletics as much as he did."

Judge Thomas made friends in both the civilian and military worlds. He was a U.S. Army veteran. He served as a commander in the Pontotoc National Guard. Additionally, Judge

Thomas was a member of the Pontotoc American Legion Post #16 and the Pontotoc Masonic Lodge #81. Judge Thomas was an active member of the Pontotoc Rotary Club. He also served on the First National Bank Board of Directors.

In 2006, Judge Thomas retired from public office and spent much of his time studying his favorite book—the Holy Bible. He was known as a scholar of the Bible and enjoyed studying scripture in a variety of translations. His favorite Bible verse was John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Judge Thomas is a man I am grateful to have known. His devotion to God, America and his fellow man will always be remembered. My thoughts and prayers are with Judge Thomas' family and friends.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENTIAL
AWARD WINNER DR. MARIA
DELORES CIMINI OF THE STATE
UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT
ALBANY

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate an extraordinary constituent, Dr. Maria Delores Cimini, who was recently awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring by the National Science Foundation.

As a leader and mentor, Dr. Cimini has helped countless individuals, especially women with disabilities, study science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Drawing on her background as a psychologist and her own experience living with a visual disability, she has paved the way for many to follow their curiosity and realize their potential through STEM education.

Dr. Cimini currently works as an Adjunct Clinical Professor in the School of Education at the University at Albany, a position she's held for more than 20 years. She has also served as Assistant Director for Prevention and Program Evaluation of the University's Counseling Center for more than 10 years.

Our National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Education have both recognized Dr. Cimini with numerous awards for her extraordinary work. In 2012, President Obama recognized her in a White House ceremony as a "Champion of Change in STEM." Her repeated national recognition reflects her enduring work that has changed the lives of so many.

I am honored to congratulate Dr. Cimini for earning her most recent impressive distinction, and thank her for her selfless commitment to serving and educating others. We can all learn from her example.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 10, 2018, I was unavoidably detained and

was unable to make votes that evening. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" for:

Roll Call 314, H.R. 5793—Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration Act; and Roll Call 315, H.R. 5749—Options Markets Stability Act.

CONGRATULATING HARRISON
FRAN OF THE RUSSELLVILLE IN-
DIANS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Harrison Fran of the Russellville Indians for his first-place finish in the 800m Run at the 2018 Missouri Class 2 State Track and Field Championship.

Harrison and his coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Harrison Fran for a job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN JENKINS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for Roll Call votes No. 316, 317, 318, 319, and 320 on the evening of July 11, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 316; Yea on Roll Call No. 317; Yea on Roll Call No. 318; Yea on Roll Call No. 319; Nay on Roll Call No. 320; and Yea on Roll Call No. 321.

HONORING MENTIS, NAPA'S CEN-
TER FOR MENTAL HEALTH
SERVICES

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mentis, Napa's Center for Mental Health Services, for its 70 years of service to Napa County, California.

Mentis opened in 1948 as Family Service, an agency dedicated to assisting Napa's veterans and their families. In 2015, the organization moved to a new, expanded clinic and changed its name to Mentis, Napa's Center for Mental Health Services, to reflect the expansion of its work to accommodate residents of every age, stage, and income level.

The staff at Mentis is committed to giving the best possible assistance and seeks to meet clients wherever they have need, including at schools, senior living homes and family resource centers county-wide. The dedicated staff members provide bi-lingual services that are tailored to the clients' backgrounds and cultures. Through these efforts, Mentis is able to assist community members that may have